

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic device network system comprising:
 - an electronic device for transmitting data via a network;
 - a plurality of storing means for storing data transmitted from the electronic device;
 - a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data;
 - a setting section for setting a security level for the data to be transmitted, wherein the security level is set in the setting section responsive to an input from a user of the electronic device, where the set security level being selected by the user is selected from a plurality of identified security levels;
 - a network connecting the electronic device, the plurality of storing means, and the plurality of external devices to one another;
 - wherein the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the plurality of external devices each have a security function and another security level associated with the set security level, where at least one of the plurality storing means has a security level that is different from another of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the plurality of external devices has a security level that is different from another of the plurality of external devices;
 - a search means for searching the plurality of storing means and for searching the plurality of external devices, responsive to selection of the security level by the user, so as to identify one or more given storing means or one or more given external devices whose security level corresponds to the security level set in the setting section;
 - a selecting means for providing results of the searching to the user and for providing an output, the output corresponding to a selected one of the identified one or more given storing means or the identified one or more given external device whose security level corresponds to the

security level set in the setting section, the selected one being selected by the user from the provided search results; and
the selected one of the given storage means or the given external device responsive to said output from the selecting means.

2. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of storing means includes a first storing means having a first security level, and a second storing means having a second security level, the first security level being higher than the second security level.

3. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means transmits data by encrypting the data, and the second storing means transmits data without encrypting the data.

4. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means is connected to the Internet via a firewall that limits access from devices on the Internet, and the second storing means is connected to the Internet without the firewall.

5. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 2, wherein the first storing means does not have access to the Internet, and the second storing means have access to the Internet.

6. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the external devices each have a communications function for encrypted data.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the search means includes means for searching for an external device according to locations or functions of the external devices.

9. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the search means further includes means for searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

10. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the search means further includes means for searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

11. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of external devices includes a search section for searching for a storing means whose associated security level matches the associated security level of one of the plurality of external devices which is making such a search. .

12. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronic device includes a displaying means for displaying a result of search made by a search means according to search conditions.

13. (Previously Presented) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the respective associated security level of the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the plurality of external devices is further established based on whether the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices belong to which of a plurality of networks that are connected to one another via access control means.

14. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the external devices comprises an image forming device.

15. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the electronic device comprises a scanner.

16. (Original) The electronic device network system as set forth in claim 14, wherein the electronic device comprises a scanner.

17. (Currently Amended) A data receiver search system comprising:
a plurality of storing means for storing data, each storing means having a different security level associated therewith;
a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data;
an electronic device connected to the plurality of storing means and the plurality of external devices via a network;
a search device being connected to the electronic device;
wherein the electronic device includes:
a transmission section for transmitting data to the storing means,
a setting section for setting a security level for the data to be transmitted, wherein the security level is set in the setting section responsive to an input from a user of the electronic device, where the set security level is selected by the user from a plurality of identified security levels;
wherein the search device includes a search section for searching the plurality of storing means, responsive to selection of the security level by the user, so as to identify one or more given storing means whose respective associated security level corresponds to the security level set in the setting section;

a selecting means for providing results of the searching to the user and for providing an output, the output corresponding to a selected one of the identified one or more given storing means whose security level corresponds to the security level set in the setting section, the selected one being selected by the user from the provided search results; and
the transmitted data corresponding to the set security level to the selected given storing means responsive to said output.

18. (Currently Amended) A data receiver search method using an electronic device network system that comprises:

an electronic device for transmitting data via a network;

a plurality of storing means for storing data transmitted from the electronic device, where at least one of the plurality storing means has a security level that is different from another of the plurality of storing means; and

a plurality of external devices for acquiring data from the storing means and processing the acquired data, where at least one of the plurality of external devices has a security level that is different from another of the plurality of external devices,

a network connecting the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices to one another, and

the electronic device, at least one of the plurality of storing means, and at least one of the external devices each having a security function and an associated security level; and

wherein said data receiver search method includes the steps of:

(a) the user of the electronic device setting a security level for the data to be transmitted, wherein said setting including the user selecting the set security level from a plurality of identified security levels;

(b) searching, responsive to selection of the security level by the user, for one or more given storing means from the plurality of storing means and one or more given external devices from the plurality of external devices whose respective associated security level match the security level set in step (a) when the electronic device transmits data; and

(c) the user selecting one of the one or more given storing means and the one or more given external devices as identified in step (b) and providing an input corresponding to said selecting; and

(d) allowing transmission of data to the selected one of the given storing means or the given external device(s) identified in step (c) responsive to the input from step (c).

19. (Previously Presented) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said searching includes searching for an external device according to a location or functions of the external device.

20. (Previously Presented) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18, wherein said searching includes searching for a transmission route of the transmitted data from the electronic device to the storing means or the external devices.

21. (Previously Presented) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

prohibiting transmission of data from the electronic device or from the storing means when the when the respective associated security levels of the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices do not match the desired security level as established by the user; and

wherein said allowing transmission of data includes allowing transmission of data from the given storing means to the given external device when the when the respective associated security levels of the electronic device, the storing means, and the external devices match the desired security level.

22. (Previously Presented) The data receiver search method as set forth in claim 21, wherein when stored data in a storing means needs to be outputted from an external device and the external device and the storing means storing the stored data have different associated

security levels so that the stored data is prevented from being transmitted from the storing means to the external device, said data receiver search method further comprises the step of:

repeating said step of searching to identify another given external device whose associated security level matches the associated security level of the storing means storing the stored data.